

- (a) Issue an Incident of Noncompliance (INC);
- (b) Require you to revise and submit to BSEE your training plan to address identified deficiencies;
- (c) Assess civil/criminal penalties; or
- (d) Initiate disqualification procedures.

### Subpart P—Sulphur Operations

#### § 250.1600 Performance standard.

Operations to discover, develop, and produce sulphur in the OCS shall be in accordance with a BOEM-approved Exploration Plan or Development and Production Plan and shall be conducted in a manner to protect against harm or damage to life (including fish and other aquatic life), property, natural resources of the OCS including any mineral deposits (in areas leased or not leased), the National security or defense, and the marine, coastal, or human environment.

#### § 250.1601 Definitions.

Terms used in this subpart shall have the meanings as defined below:

*Air line* means a tubing string that is used to inject air within a sulphur producing well to airlift sulphur out of the well.

*Bleedwater* means a mixture of mine water or booster water and connate water that is produced by a bleedwell.

*Bleedwell* means a well drilled into a producing sulphur deposit that is used to control the mine pressure generated by the injection of mine water.

*Brine* means the water containing dissolved salt obtained from a brine well by circulating water into and out of a cavity in the salt core of a salt dome.

*Brine well* means a well drilled through cap rock into the core at a salt dome for the purpose of producing brine.

*Cap rock* means the rock formation, a body of limestone, anhydride, and/or gypsum, overlying a salt dome.

*Sulphur deposit* means a formation of rock that contains elemental sulphur.

*Sulphur production rate* means the number of long tons of sulphur produced during a certain period of time, usually per day.

#### § 250.1602 Applicability.

(a) The requirements of this subpart P are applicable to all exploration, development, and production operations under an OCS sulphur lease. Sulphur operations include all activities conducted under a lease for the purpose of discovery or delineation of a sulphur deposit and for the development and production of elemental sulphur. Sulphur operations also include activities conducted for related purposes. Activities conducted for related purposes include, but are not limited to, production of other minerals, such as salt, for use in the exploration for or the development and production of sulphur. The lessee must have obtained the right to produce and/or use these other minerals.

(b) Lessees conducting sulphur operations in the OCS shall comply with the requirements of the applicable provisions of subparts A, B, C, I, J, M, N, O, and Q of this part and the applicable provisions of 30 CFR 550 subparts A, B, C, J and N.

(c) Lessees conducting sulphur operations in the OCS are also required to comply with the requirements in the applicable provisions of subparts D, E, F, H, K, and L of this part and the applicable provisions of 30 CFR 550, subpart K, where such provisions specifically are referenced in this subpart.

#### § 250.1603 Determination of sulphur deposit.

(a) Upon receipt of a written request from the lessee, the District Manager will determine whether a sulphur deposit has been defined that contains sulphur in paying quantities (*i.e.*, sulphur in quantities sufficient to yield a return in excess of the costs, after completion of the wells, of producing minerals at the wellheads).

(b) A determination under paragraph (a) of this section shall be based upon the following:

(1) Core analyses that indicate the presence of a producible sulphur deposit (including an assay of elemental sulphur);

(2) An estimate of the amount of recoverable sulphur in long tons over a specified period of time; and

(3) Contour map of the cap rock together with isopach map showing the

#### § 250.1604

#### 30 CFR Ch. II (7–1–12 Edition)

extent and estimated thickness of the sulphur deposit.

##### § 250.1604 General requirements.

Sulphur lessees shall comply with requirements of this section when conducting well-drilling, well-completion, well-workover, or production operations.

(a) *Equipment movement.* The movement of well-drilling, well-completion, or well-workover rigs and related equipment on and off an offshore platform, or from one well to another well on the same offshore platform, including rigging up and rigging down, shall be conducted in a safe manner.

(b) *Hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S).* When a drilling, well-completion, well-workover, or production operation is being conducted on a well in zones known to contain H<sub>2</sub>S or in zones where the presence of H<sub>2</sub>S is unknown (as defined in § 250.490 of this part), the lessee shall take appropriate precautions to protect life and property, especially during operations such as dismantling wellhead equipment and flow lines and circulating the well. The lessee shall also take appropriate precautions when H<sub>2</sub>S is generated as a result of sulphur production operations. The lessee shall comply with the requirements in § 250.490 of this part as well as the requirements of this subpart.

(c) *Welding and burning practices and procedures.* All welding, burning, and hot-tapping activities involved in drilling, well-completion, well-workover or production operations shall be conducted with properly maintained equipment, trained personnel, and appropriate procedures in order to minimize the danger to life and property according to the specific requirements in §§ 250.109 through 250.113 of this part.

(d) *Electrical requirements.* All electrical equipment and systems involved in drilling, well-completion, well-workover, and production operations shall be designed, installed, equipped, protected, operated, and maintained so as to minimize the danger to life and property in accordance with the requirements of § 250.114 of this part.

(e) *Structures on fixed OCS platforms.* Derricks, cranes, masts, substructures, and related equipment shall be se-

lected, designed, installed, used, and maintained so as to be adequate for the potential loads and conditions of loading that may be encountered during the operations. Prior to moving equipment such as a well-drilling, well-completion, or well-workover rig or associated equipment or production equipment onto a platform, the lessee shall determine the structural capability of the platform to safely support the equipment and operations, taking into consideration corrosion protection, platform age, and previous stresses.

(f) *Traveling-block safety device.* All drilling units being used for drilling, well-completion, or well-workover operations that have both a traveling block and a crown block must be equipped with a safety device that is designed to prevent the traveling block from striking the crown block. The device must be checked for proper operation weekly and after each drill-line slipping operation. The results of the operational check must be entered in the operations log.

##### § 250.1605 Drilling requirements.

(a) *Sulphur leases.* Lessees of OCS sulphur leases shall conduct drilling operations in accordance with §§ 250.1605 through 250.1619 of this subpart and with other requirements of this part, as appropriate.

(b) *Fitness of drilling unit.* (1) Drilling units shall be capable of withstanding the oceanographic and meteorological conditions for the proposed season and location of operations.

(2) Prior to commencing operation, drilling units shall be made available for a complete inspection by the District Manager.

(3) The lessee shall provide information and data on the fitness of the drilling unit to perform the proposed drilling operation. The information shall be submitted with, or prior to, the submission of Form BSEE-0123, Application for Permit to Drill (APD), in accordance with § 250.1617 of this subpart. After a drilling unit has been approved by a BSEE district office, the information required in this paragraph need not be resubmitted unless required by the District Manager or there are changes in the equipment